

Intervention by Mr. Julius Joubert, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance, Seychelles

Seychelles' Experience with peer-learning:

On behalf of the Republic of Seychelles, I wish to express appreciation to the UN system—particularly the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) for Seychelles, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)—for their facilitation and support throughout the VNR process.

Presenting our second VNR in 2025, following the first which was presented in 2020, Seychelles used this review as an opportunity to take stock of progress and challenges in the post-COVID context. I must highlight that the virtual peer learning exchanges were held at a crucial time in our VNR process, and provided the opportunity to engage with regional counterparts such as Uganda and with countries in Asia, including the Philippines.

I thank our counterparts for openly sharing experiences and lessons learned, and I note that the exchange of insights was particularly beneficial for team members new to the VNR process. The blend of technical expertise and firsthand accounts from international peers provided practical guidance that strengthened Seychelles' approach to the review.

Benefits and Insights from Peer Learning in the VNR Process – Seychelles

There is much value in these peer learning exchanges as far as enhancing the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process. These exchanges provided exposure to lessons learned and best practices from other countries, deepening understanding of SDG implementation and the VNR context.

They also fostered a sense of community with peers who offered practical insights, and complemented global and regional workshops, which serve as additional platforms for knowledge-sharing.

To conclude, fellow countries stand to benefit from drawing on previous VNR iterations. For Seychelles, conducting its first VNR during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic yielded important outcomes: alongside notable successes in education, social protection, and climate action, the review underscored the nation's economic vulnerability. This recognition has driven efforts to strengthen economic resilience and pursue greater economic diversification.